



Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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"During the past 18 months the members of this Board have come together and developed a new business model that we believe will benefit the city in these tough economic times," Gentry said.

Metro Issues First "Green" Building Permit



Jimmy, Kerry and Jim McLean of J2K receive the first Green Building Permit from Codes and Building Safety Chief Plans Examiner Joey Hargis

An affordable single-family home in North Nashville will be the first one built under the Metropolitan Codes and Building Safety Department's new "Green Permit" program.

J2K Builders and Quirk Designs filed plans for a 920-square-foot home at 1223 Phillips Street, with construction scheduled to start in March.

"Building green is the thing to do," J2K co-owner and Metro Planning Commission chairman Jim McLean said. "It will cost a little more for us to build it, but the homeowner will save in the long run."

McLean said protecting our environment is really everyone's business.

"Whether or not there is global warming is for someone else to decide, but if we can save a tree, then that is what we will do. I think it is my responsibility as a builder to help the future," he said. Codes and Building Safety Director Terry Cobb said that sustainable design and construction is critical for the entire community.

"Green building is a common sense construction using environmentally friendly products. Sustainable and construction produces a better community and a better way of life for all of us," Cobb said.

Cobb explained the role of the Codes and Building Safety Department is simple:

When a builder applies for a permit under this program, the builder expresses their intent for the project to be completed utilizing either the US Green Building Council's LEED for Homes program or from Earthcraft Homes program. In order for a Green Occupancy permit to be issued, there has to be a third party (in this case either LEED or Earthcraft verification that the standards have been met.

"If the proof of certification is presented, the building will receive a "Green Certificate of Occupancy" thus establishing a permanent and public record of the certification, Cobb said.

Metro Social Services Board Names Interim Director

The Metro Social Services (MSS) Board of Commissioners named long-term staff member Renee Pratt as the department's interim director effective immediately. Prior to this appointment, Pratt has served as MSS' Director of Administration and also led the department's Division of Planning and Coordination. MSS Board chair Howard Gentry called a special board meeting for Jan. 16, 2009, to discuss the department's operations until the search for a new director has been completed.

The Board on Jan. 10 adopted a new business model that centers on a planning and coordination function. In the same meeting, the Board voted not to renew the contract of executive director, Gerri Robinson, which expires next month. "We appreciate all the hard work Ms. Robinson has done for the department, but with her contract coming to an end, we believe this to be the appropriate time for a change in leadership." Gentry said the Board determined a change in leadership was necessary to communicate to the city, MSS stakeholders and the community

Nashville's Russell Brecheen Awarded Keep America Beautiful's Iron Eyes Cody Award

Local Man Honored for Outstanding Leadership In Metro Beautification Programs

Russell Bauman Brecheen, Jr. of the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission (MBEC) was honored recently at 2008's Keep America Conference, receiving the Iron Eyes Cody Award. The award is given annually to the man who demonstrates outstanding leadership in promoting the 'Keep America Beautiful' mission.

The Iron Eyes Cody Award was created in honor of Keep America Beautiful's landmark public awareness campaign of the 1970's, which is credited with awakening the environmental consciousness of an entire generations of Americans.

"Russell Brecheen represents the best of the best of what Nashville is about. He demonstrates daily his genuine concern for our city by rolling up his sleeves and making our city a better, more beautiful place for all of us to live," Mayor Karl Dean said.

"This department and the entire city of Nashville is fortunate to have a volunteer leader like Russell," added Public Works Director Billy Lynch. "He is a remarkable example of positive community involvement that all residents can and should follow."

Mr. Brecheen's commitment to volunteer service was evident throughout his 35 years of service at Pepsi, and since his retirement in 1997, his days have been anything but slow. He is responsible for numerous community improvement programs including:

- The formation of a partnership with the WalMart Neighborhood Market in his district;
- The creation of both a 24/7 Recycling Drop-Off site with the proceeds of the recyclables being donated to the Nashville Alliance for Public Schools;
- Hazardous Waste and Education Collection Day Seven Mile Creek Cleanup;
- Dell Computer Recycling Sign Off Day;
- The Great American Cleanup.

"Russell has worked for a decade on ensuring his community is a better place to live," said Matthew McKenna, President & CEO of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. "I cannot think of a better way to honor him this year, than to give one of our top awards to him for his extremely fruitful efforts."

"We couldn't be more thrilled for Mr. Brecheen, and we're so proud that he has received national recognition for his efforts here at home," said Veronica Frazier of the Metro Beautification & Environmental Commission. "He shows exceptional leadership in raising public awareness about litter prevention, roadside and community beautification, solid waste issues and the need for citizens to participate in activities that preserve and enhance natural resources and public lands. His boundless energy, warm smile, and his commitment to improving our community makes him a true inspiration to everyone he meets."

Mr. Brecheen, a native of Nashville who attended and graduated from public schools, served in the US Army from 1953-57. He and wife Ruby, whom he met at a popular local barbecue restaurant, have been married 43 years.

In 2003, he was appointed to represent the 27th Council District on the MBEC, and currently serves as its chairman. More information about MBEC and its numerous litter prevention, recycling education, and neighborhood cleanup programs is available by calling 862-8418 or by visiting www.nashville.gov/beautification.



Iron Eyes Cody
1907-1999

For a complete list of all Keep America Beautiful 2008 award winners from the 55th national conference, as well as information about its awards program, please visit Keep America Beautiful's Web site at www.kab.org.

About Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Keep America Beautiful, Inc., established in 1953, is the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. This national nonprofit forms public-private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. For additional information, visit www.kab.org.



**Photograph courtesy of
Gary Layda
(Metro Photographer)**

DON'T LET A SEWER OVERFLOW RUIN YOUR DAY

Properly Dispose of Used Cooking Oils and Grease

Residents of homes and apartments generate Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) during the preparation and cooking of food. Fats, oils, and grease poured in kitchen sinks or other drains, can cause blockages in the city sewer line and possible sewer line back-ups in neighboring residences, or result in sanitary sewer overflows that pollute our environment with raw sewage. In a cooperative effort to minimize environmental impacts and sanitary sewer blockages, Metro Public Works and Metro Water Services make it easy to recycle used cooking oil and grease.

Residential fats, oils and greases can now be properly disposed of at the Omohundro Convenience Center at 1019 Omohundro Place and the East Convenience Center at 941 Dr. Richard G. Adams Drive Tuesday through Saturday between the hours of 8:30 and 5:00.

Collect the fats, oils and grease waste in a sturdy, sealed container in order to prevent leaks during transport to the

Convenience Center for recycling. Open the lid on the recycling bin, pour the cooking oil or grease into the bin and dispose of the container in the dumpster.

It is estimated that approximately 100,000 gallons of fryer and waste cooking oil is disposed of in the landfill each year. The residential grease-recycling program provides an opportunity for customers to dispose of their fryer oil properly to protect the environment, prevent problems in their neighborhood, and utilize FOG for beneficial reuse.



MAYOR DEAN, TDOT TO HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

Officials convene for announcement at annual Keep Tennessee Beautiful event

Mayor Karl Dean and Matt McKenna, President, Keep America Beautiful announced Metro's participation in this year's "2009 Great American Cleanup™" at a joint press conference at the Airport Marriott Nashville Hotel.

Volunteers, state and local beautification officials will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) later this week. The new president of Keep America Beautiful, Matt McKenna, will be the guest speaker at the annual luncheon on Thursday. He will be joined by Mayor Dean and Commissioner Nicely for an exciting announcement involving Nash-

ville and this year's upcoming Great American Cleanup™.

Held each spring from March 1 through May 31, the Great American Cleanup rallies 3 million volunteers annually in projects that improve their community's environment and quality of life. In each of the last two years, Tennessee was the only state in history to have 100% participation from all 95 of its counties. In 2008, over 1.5 million people took part in litter clean-ups, educational events, graffiti removals, recycling drives and other volunteer projects statewide.

National Preservation Conference Comes to Nashville

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is bringing the National Preservation Conference to Nashville, October 13-17, 2009. Many individuals and organizations are working to ensure that this program is a rousing success, including the Metropolitan Historical Commission, Tennessee Preservation Trust, the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and many others.

For more information about the conference and how you can participate, see http://www.nashville.gov/mhc/national_preservation_conference.htm



Home Heating Safety

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

According to the National Fire Protection Association's "[Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment](#)" report by John R. Hall, Jr.:

- In 2005, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 civilian deaths, 1,550 civilian injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage.
- In 2005 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths. Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005. Excluding small confined fires, heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, is by far the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and home heating fire deaths (53%). Here are some basic tips on home heating safety:
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable heater.
- Only use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Never use your oven for heating.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.

- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- For fuel burning space heaters, always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room and burn only dry, seasoned wood. Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from the home.
- For wood burning stoves, install chimney connectors and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not attempt to light the appliance. Turn off all the controls and open doors and windows. Call a gas service person.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly.

If you want to learn more, the NFPA has produced a new on line tool kit that helps everyone understand the safe use of all types of heating equipment.

Go to www.NFPA.org for your online tool kit and to read more about fire safety.



Neighborhoods Resource Center and Codes Host Forum with Environmental Court Referee Jim Todd

Citizens from a number of neighborhood organizations met at the Metro Office building on Monday to discuss the Environmental Court program and to explore ways citizens can become more involved in the court process.

Hosted by the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), the meeting gave participants an opportunity to review the Environmental Court program, including some important changes that have occurred since Referee Todd's appointment, and to ask questions about the future of the program.

Referee Todd took questions from the audience on a number of key issues, to include how to make the environmental court docket more user friendly, ideas on how we can increase the fines levied by the court, as well as general questions about the environmental court process.

In addition to the thirty citizens who participated in the event, Metro council was also well represented. Council lady Bennett, Gilmore, Moore, and Page along with Councilmen Baker, Duvall and Todd joined in the discussion.

Mayor Accepts MECCC Contribution From Codes



Pictured from left to right is Mayor Karl Dean, Carla Langley, Codes MECCC program chair, Terry Cobb, Director of Codes & Building Safety and Cynthia Croom, Metro MECCC Chair.

Codes Welcomes Not 1, But 2 New Plumbing Inspectors



Two new professionals have joined the Codes and Building Safety team as Andrea Hall and Ken Faircloth became Plumbing Inspectors, according to Terry Cobb, department director.

"We are very happy to have them both here. Their experience and professional demeanor will be major assets for us," Cobb said.

Hall joined the Codes and Building Safety staff in December of last year as a plumbing inspector. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree. She is a licensed master plumber as well.

As a quality control manager for Northwest Plumbing, she was responsible for inspections of all installations including all stages of jobs from slab, rough-in to trim to final inspections as well as being responsible for reviewing plans and specifications for compliance with plumbing codes. In addition, she trained subcontractor crews and service technicians while managing the company's inventory of supplies.

Faircloth became a Codes and Building safety-plumbing inspector last fall.

A native of Nashville, he brings a variety of experience to the position.

In 2008, he served at the Vinson Group as a plumber where he worked in all phases of the company.

Prior to this, he worked for Jimmy Gleaves Plumbing as well as R & D Plumbing. His duties included plumbing installations well as supervision of both commercial and residential plumbing projects.



Save The Date—Codes Announces Annual Golf Tournament

The 13th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament will be held on October 17, 2009 at the Ted Rhodes Golf Course.

Last year's tournament, through the support of 128 golfers and 99 sponsors, resulted in yet a new record \$28,000 being donated to three local charities through the Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign (MECCC).

This year, all proceeds will again go to the MECCC for the benefit of local charities.

Department of Codes & Building Safety

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Terry Cobb and **Bill Penn** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to [Bill Penn](mailto:bill.penn@nashville.gov), at bill.penn@nashville.gov
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